

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-46 and 48-114 were pending in the present application. In the foregoing amendments, claims 91-99 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer to subject matter disclosed therein. Claims 27-45, 72-90 and 100-108, which were previously withdrawn (in response to a Restriction Requirement), have also been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 91 and 96-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundelin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,861), hereinafter referred to as Sundelin, in view of Shibutani (U.S. Patent No. 6,940,824), hereinafter referred to as Shibutani. Claims 92-95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundelin in view of Shibutani, and in further view of Gunnarsson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,541), hereinafter referred to as Gunnarsson. Claim 99 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundelin in view of Shibutani, and in further view of Higley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,105), hereinafter referred to as Higley. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To expedite prosecution of the present application, claims 91-99 have been cancelled in the foregoing amendments, thereby obviating these rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-26, 46, 48-71, and 109-114 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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